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Weekly

NFL Week 1 Predictions

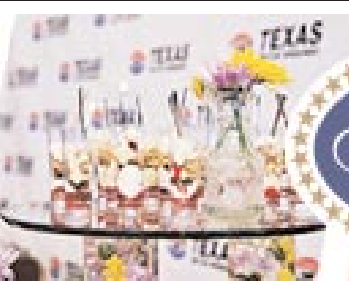
Sept. 6 - Sept. 12, 2024

Vol. 23, Issue 1

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2024 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				28 CHC	29	30 CHC
31 CHC	1 TB	2 TB	3 TB	4	5 HOU	6 HOU
7 HOU	8 HOU	9 OAK	10 OAK	11 OAK	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15 DET	16 DET	17 DET	18 DET	19 ATL	20 ATL
21 ATL	22	23 SEA	24 SEA	25 SEA	26 CIN	27 CIN
28 CIN	29	30 WSH				

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 SD	3 SD	4 SD	5 TB	6 TB
7 TB	8 LAA	9 LAA	10 LAA	11	12 HOU	13 HOU
14 HOU	15	16 2024 ALL-STAR WEEK	17	18	19 BAL	20 BAL
21 BAL	22 CWS	23 CWS	24 CWS	25 CWS	26 TOR	27 TOR
28 TOR	29 STL	30 STL	31 STL			

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WSH	2 WSH	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 OAK	9	10 COL	11 COL
12 COL	13 CLE	14 CLE	15 CLE	16	17 LAA	18 LAA
19 LAA	20	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 MIN	25 MIN
26 MIN	27	28 AZ	29 AZ	30	31 MIA	

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 BOS	3 BOS
4 BOS	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 HOU	8	9 NYY	10 NYY
11 NYY	12 BOS	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 MIN
18 MIN	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 PIT	22	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26	27 CWS	28 CWS	29 CWS	30 OAK	31 OAK

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 MIA
2 MIA	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6	7 SF	8 SF
9 SF	10	11 LAD	12 LAD	13 LAD	14 SEA	15 SEA
16 SEA	17 NYM	18 NYM	19 NYM	20	21 KC	22 KC
23 KC	24 MIL	25 MIL	26 MIL	27 BAL	28 BAL	29 BAL
30 BAL						

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 OAK	2 NYY	3 NYY	4 NYY	5 LAA	6 LAA	7 LAA
8 LAA	9	10 AZ	11 AZ	12 SEA	13 SEA	14 SEA
15 SEA	16	17 TOR	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 SEA	21 SEA
22 SEA	23	24 OAK	25 OAK	26 OAK	27 LAA	28 LAA
29 LAA	30					

Schedule subject to change. Times to be announced at a later date.

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AROUND THE AREA

LOCAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Andrus to retire with the Rangers



According to the Rangers, Andrus will also throw out the first pitch before Friday's game against the Angels

Two-time All-Star and longtime shortstop for the Texas Rangers, Elvis Andrus, announced that he will retire as an active player on Friday, Sept. 6 as a member of the Rangers organization.

According to a release from the Rangers, Andrus will retire at a press conference hosted at Globe Life Field at 2:30 p.m. Friday. He will be joined by Rangers Hall of Famer Michael Young and the Los Angeles Angels Manager Ron Washington, who managed the Rangers for the first six seasons of Andrus' Major League career.

Andrus, who spent time with Oakland and the Chicago White Sox from 2021 to 2023, played for the Rangers from 2009 to 2020. During his lengthy career in the MLB, Andrus posted a .269 batting average with 102 home runs, 775 RBIs and 347 stolen bases.

The shortstop earned All-Star accolades two times in 2010 and 2012 and was the Rangers' Rookie of the Year in 2009. In addition, Andrus was named the Rangers' Player of the Year in 2017, recording 100 runs, 191 hits, 20 homers and 88 RBIs.

To add to the momentous occasion, Andrus will also throw out the ceremonial

first pitch before the Rangers take on the Angels on Friday night.



Dallas Mavericks games will not be broadcast on Bally Sports Southwest in 2024-2025 season

According to the NBA, the Mavs opted out of a new deal agreed to between Diamond Sports and the NBA

Dallas Mavericks games will not be aired on Bally Sports Southwest during the 2024-2025 season -- a reveal first reported by The Athletic. The NBA announced that it reached an agreement with Diamond Sports Group, which broadcasts games through Bally's regional sports networks (RSNs) and is currently going through Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In this agreement, Diamond Sports Group will be able to telecast local games for 13 NBA teams this season as it has in the past. However, the NBA said, two teams opted out of that accord -- the Dallas Mavericks and the New Orleans Pelicans. The team referred to the following statement from the NBA:

"We have reached a new agreement with Diamond Sports Group for the 2024-25 season in which Diamond RSNs will telecast local games for 13 NBA teams. The Dallas Mavericks and New Orleans Pelicans declined to continue distributing

their games on Diamond RSNs and will share more details soon on how to watch games for the upcoming season in their respective markets. This new agreement is subject to approval by the bankruptcy court

For now, it's unclear what the Mavs will do going forward. However, earlier this month, Mavs minority owner Mark Cuban said the front office is looking to "maximize distribution." One speculation is that the Mavs may join up with the Dallas Stars and its new streaming platform Victory+ to stream games for free.

During the 2023-24 season, TEGNA and the Mavs partnered to have 10 games air on WFAA throughout March and April.

Cowboys list Ezekiel Elliott as RB1 for the 2024 season






Ezekiel Elliott started only five games for the Patriots last season, which came in the final five games when Rhamondre Stevenson went down with a high-ankle sprain. Elliott returned to the Cowboys this offseason, and by default, he will start the season as RB1.

The Cowboys list Elliott as the starting running back on their depth chart, and coach Mike McCarthy has confirmed it.

Dallas' depth chart includes rookie Marist Liufau over DeMarvion Overshown at linebacker, and three other rookies will start. Cornerback Caelon Carson became a starter after DaRon Bland was injured, and center Cooper Beebe and left tackle Tyler Guyton won starting jobs.

The Cowboys have never started four rookies in the opening game of a season since the AFL-NFL merger.

NCAA Football Poll		
Coaches Poll	Week 2	AP Poll
1. Georgia	1. Georgia	1. Georgia
2. Ohio State	2. Ohio State	2. Ohio State
3. Texas	3. Texas	3. Texas
4. Alabama	4. Alabama	4. Alabama
5. Ole Miss	5. Notre Dame	5. Notre Dame
6. Oregon	6. Ole Miss	6. Ole Miss
7. Notre Dame	7. Oregon	7. Oregon
8. Penn State	8. Penn State	8. Penn State
9. Michigan	9. Missouri	9. Missouri
10. Missouri	10. Michigan	10. Michigan
11. Utah	11. Utah	11. Utah
12. Tennessee	12. Miami	12. Miami
13. Oklahoma	13. USC	13. USC
14. USC	14. Tennessee	14. Tennessee
15. Miami	15. Oklahoma	15. Oklahoma
16. Kansas State	16. Oklahoma State	16. Oklahoma State
17. Oklahoma State	17. Kansas State	17. Kansas State
18. Arizona	18. LSU	18. LSU
19. LSU	19. Kansas	19. Kansas
20. Kansas	20. Arizona	20. Arizona
21. Iowa	21. Iowa	21. Iowa
22. Clemson	22. Louisville	22. Louisville
23. NC State	23. Georgia Tech	23. Georgia Tech
24. Louisville	24. N.C State	24. N.C State
25. Washington	25. Clemson	25. Clemson

WEEKLY CALENDAR							
	SEPTEMBER 6 FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 7 SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 8 SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 9 MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 10 TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 11 WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 12 THURSDAY
	Rangers vs Angels 7:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Angels 6:05 / Bally's	Rangers vs Angels 1:35 / Bally's		Rangers at D-backs 8:40 / Bally's	Rangers at D-backs 2:40 / Bally's	Rangers at D-backs 8:40 / Bally's
	Roughriders vs Wichita 7:05	Roughriders vs Wichita 7:05	Roughriders vs Wichita 6:05		Roughriders at Amarillo 6:35	Roughriders at Amarillo 6:35	Roughriders at Amarillo 6:35
		FC Dallas at Vancouver 9:30 / TXA 21					
			Dallas vs Cleveland 3:25 / FOX				
	SMU vs BYU 6:00 / ESPN2						

Rangers lose Gray, Mahle for the season



The Rangers bullpen is getting thin as only four members of the rotation are on the active roster at the moment

Texas' rotation for final month in flux after RHPs lost to foot neuroma, shoulder stiffness

By Jon Thomas

You can never have too much starting pitching. No seriously, you really can never have too much starting pitching.

At one point in the season, it felt like the Rangers maybe had too much starting pitching, as a number of veterans worked their way back from injury. They even traded one pitcher, Michael Lorenzen, to the Royals at the Trade Deadline.

Before Tuesday's 7-4 walk-off win over the Yankees, however, manager Bruce Bochy announced that both Jon Gray (right foot neuroma) and Tyler Mahle (shoulder stiffness) will likely be shut down for the remainder of the season.

The news ironically came on a day in which Andrew Heaney -- the only Rangers starter to not spend any time on the injured list this season -- got a no decision after tossing five-plus scoreless innings the thrilling victory at Globe Life Field.

Through Tuesday's start, Heaney has received two or fewer runs of support in seven straight and 20 of his 26 starts this season, as his team-low 3.55 run support average as a starter is the third-lowest mark among MLB qualifiers and the lowest by any Rangers starting pitcher (min. 20 GS) since Cole Hamels in 2018 (3.15).

"It seems like every year you have a guy that you just have trouble getting run support for, and he's been that guy," Bochy

said of Heaney. "It's almost every start. But that's not indicative of how he's been throwing the ball because he's given us a chance so consistently to win a game. We just have a tough time getting the runs there for him."

As for Gray's unfortunate news, that announcement came as a shock. He's had two injured list stints this season, but both were groin-related.

According to the Mayo Clinic, a foot neuroma is "a condition that affects the ball of your foot, that makes it feel as if you are standing on a pebble in your shoe. It involves the thickening of the tissue around one of the nerves leading to your toes, causing a sharp pain in the ball of your foot."

Gray has struggled through much of this season, posting a 4.47 ERA in 102 2/3 innings. He was visibly disappointed after his last start against the A's, when he allowed four runs in 4 2/3 innings of the Rangers' 9-2 loss.

"It's at a point where we've got to take care of this," Bochy said. "Yes, [he's done for the season.] Surgery is an option, that's what we're talking about now. We're also exploring other options. He had it a little bit last year, and it's coming back this year. We're just at a point where it's affecting him. Now you're putting the pitcher at risk, it changes his delivery. We're just looking after him, trying to take care of him."

Mahle recently returned to the big leagues after a long Tommy John rehab over the last 18 months. In his first three

starts this season, he had allowed seven runs in 12 2/3 innings, striking out 10 and walking four. His velocity was slightly down in his last start against the Twins on Aug. 18, but the Rangers weren't initially concerned after he landed on the injured list with right shoulder stiffness.

"I have no idea," Mahle said when asked about his timeline. "I think that's something to ask [the staff] about. I'm just playing catch and seeing how it feels."

During a brief chat with the media, Mahle reiterated multiple times that he didn't know what to expect from the last month of the season, but he was following the lead of the training staff. Bochy had a clearer outlook on the situation.

"Right now, we're pretty much shutting him down," Bochy said. "He's going to play catch and throw and all that. But I don't think we'll see another start. I'm not ruling it out completely, but why take that risk and rush him back?"

With only four members of the rotation on the active roster at the moment, it's hard not to expect Jacob deGrom to return sooner than the Rangers are saying publicly. As of now, the plan is for deGrom to pitch at Double-A Frisco on Saturday. deGrom told the media that the Rangers' staff was discussing him starting with the big league club this coming weekend, as opposed to making a final rehab start with the RoughRiders, but Bochy didn't sound fully on board with the idea when asked.

"That's always an option, but I don't think that's what we're going to do," Bochy said on Monday. "If something happened, and we were in a position where we thought we needed to do it and it was fine with Jacob, yeah, we would do it. But for now the plan is still for him to start down there [in Frisco]."

This feels like that something that could push deGrom's return sooner, but Bochy emphasized on Tuesday that deGrom will go to Frisco on Saturday and return to the big league rotation shortly thereafter.



Don't keep your eyes on the ball



TOM WARD
TOMPWARD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

You've probably heard the expression, 'keep your eye on the ball'. I would prefer you 'don't keep your eye on the ball' when playing golf. I know that sounds like an oxymoron, so let me explain.

I've taught a number of blind golfers over the years to play at a high level, and obviously they can't see the ball. Take a look at the photos. The photographs depicted here are from a golf clinic I did a few years ago.

In the top left photo, I'm about to hit a

golf ball without ever looking at it after taking my stance. I'm pointing down the range towards the intended target while speaking to them. It's always important to be cognizant of where your target is even if you can't see it.

In the top right photo, I've set up to swing while my head is still looking at the target.

The bottom left photo is the takeaway. As you can clearly see my head is still tilted, looking toward the target, while the club head has started away from the ball.

The bottom right is the payoff, hitting a crisp clean shot right down the fairway.

As you make the backswing your head will move somewhat during this drill, but it will be restrictive, because we aren't built to move this way naturally. Only go back as far as you can comfortably. I would recommend doing practice swings without a ball.

The key to success is, don't try to put your swing on the ball. Let the ball get in

the way of your swing. In other words, you let the ball get hit because it was sitting there. It got in the path of your swing. This is a good example of why people's practice swings are often better than their actual swings. Without a ball, they swing projecting through the ball. When the ball is there, they swing at the ball.

One of the keys to correcting this problem is to understand not only how the proper body actions work, but also - and just as important - how to separate the optic eye from the 'mind's eye'.

The optic eye sees where the ball is sitting. The 'mind's eye' sees the ball traveling to the target. Remember, the ball is not our target, so we shouldn't let the optic eye con us into hitting it. Let the 'mind's eye' swing to your target, which is the fairway or the green. Frankly, you can look at the ball, but there is a great difference in looking at it and concentrating on it. Project to the target, not the ball.

I will give you a perfect example of this. As I mentioned, I have taught numerous golfers who have lost their vision. I believe

these prove without a doubt that once you are in position, over the ball, with the proper stance, you have in fact measured yourself to the ball. Your head/eyes stay centered only for balance.

I periodically blindfold my students to give them the sensation of trusting their swings. When your mind is focusing on where the ball sits, it can limit your ability to make the proper swing. When your projection is positive - as it is when your 'mind's eye' is on the target - it will encourage you to make the necessary and proper body motions. Remember, the target is not where the ball sits; it is where you want it to go.

There is a direct link between the strength of your projection and the strength of your physical swing. I believe 'target' is an important word in the game of golf, and perhaps the most neglected.

I leave you with this thought: Remember, "What the mind conceives, the body can achieve." Learning this will be an eye opening experience for you. *Please visit: www.teetimewithtom.com*

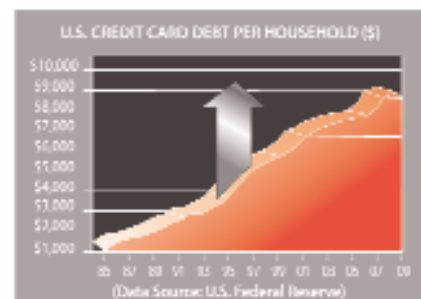


Credit Card Debt?

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at \$2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.



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One such case is Sandra L. who proclaimed "CreditGUARD cut my monthly payment by \$656 and saved me over \$29,206.53 in interest. They saved my way of life and gave me back my peace of mind! Now I can see myself on my way to becoming debt free." or Jeffrey C. who said "CreditGUARD of America helped me consolidate 3 of my credit cards into one affordable payment. They are now saving me nearly \$200 a month. Now I will be debt free in 2 years or less"

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An incredible season gets fitting ending



Scheffler's seven wins in 2024 were more than the previous two years combined

Scottie Scheffler converts TOUR Championship's No. 1 seed into FedExCup crown

By Sean Martin

There was only one acceptable outcome for Scottie Scheffler at the TOUR Championship. That made the FedExCup Playoffs finale one of the most stressful weeks of the year.

In the previous two seasons, Scheffler had relinquished the unique, two-stroke advantage that the TOUR Championship affords the FedExCup leader. Though he was the PGA TOUR Player of the Year in both 2022 and 2023 – the first player since Tiger Woods to win the award in consecutive years – he couldn't lay claim to the TOUR's season-long prize.

"It definitely, I think, leaves a bad taste in your mouth at the end of the year, especially when I start with the lead," Scheffler said about his unsuccessful attempts to win the FedExCup.

He was determined to make this time different. He is too competitive and had worked too hard to settle for anything less. There was no other way to end an incredible season where he won everything from a green jacket to a gold medal.

"In the back of your head you know it's going to come down to this," Scheffler said, "and you have to have a great week."

This time, he did. But he had to show one more time what separates him from his peers before he could finally lift the FedExCup for the first time.

It came in the middle of a final round that once seemed like little more than a formality. Scheffler had built a seven-shot lead with just 16 holes remaining. The lead dwindled to two, though, after his sand shot on the eighth hole caught a portion of the clubface that only amateurs find.

His shank, and the resulting bogey, allowed Collin Morikawa to pull within

two shots. That's when Scheffler's caddie, Ted Scott, stepped in with a simple reminder.

"Just remember who you are," Scott said. "You're Scottie Scheffler."

Scheffler responded by striping a 4-iron tee shot to within 3 feet of the ninth hole, the first of three consecutive birdies that put him five ahead. An eagle at the 14th hole, where Scheffler hit a 7-iron to 16 feet, made the final four holes the coronation that Scheffler's season deserved.

Afterward, Scott had a message for his boss: "That's the longest lead anyone has ever slept on."

"It's like eight months, knowing you're going to have a lead here," Scott explained. "It's a tremendous amount of pressure, and he handled it super well."

Scheffler started the week at 10-under par and then shot 20-under (65-66-66-67, 264) on the following 72 holes. His total of 30-under par was four strokes better than Collin Morikawa, who shot the week's low 72-hole score (66-63-67-66, 262). Sahith Theegala finished third at 24 under; he was the only other player within 10 shots of Scheffler.

Scheffler led the field in Strokes Gained: Off-the-Tee (+3.4), Greens in Regulation (54 of 72) and Driving Distance (338.6 yards). He was second in Driving Accuracy (37 of 56 fairways) and third in Strokes Gained: Putting (+4.1). It was another display of Scheffler's unmatched ballstriking ability, and an opportunity to showcase the improved putting that was key to his dominant season.

"Last year I was playing good golf and I wasn't able to make the key putts at the right time, and this year I was," Scheffler said. "That's really just the difference."

Scheffler may have been voted the PGA TOUR's top player in each of the previous two years, but his seven wins in 2024 were more than the previous two years com-

bined. His 13 wins since February 2022 are more than double any other player. Including his Olympic gold medal, which doesn't count as an official PGA TOUR win, he was victorious eight times in 2024 alone.

He will be the reigning FedExCup champion for the next 12 months, and it would likely take at least that long to supplant him from atop the world ranking.

"I'm proud of the results," he said. "It's something I try not to focus too much on, but at the end of the day, being able to win tournaments is a great feeling, and it's what we work towards, and to be able to have as many wins as I have this year is really special."

Scheffler won on courses both historic and modern, short and long, wide and narrow. From the expansive canvas of Augusta National to the cozy confines of Harbour Town. Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer could not stop Scheffler with the thick rough and firm greens that are the trademarks of their tournaments, nor could Pete Dye and his penal creations.

Scheffler held a magic wand for his first win, the mallet putter that he debuted that week, and his baby boy for the eighth and final victory of 2024. Little Bennett Scheffler has only been around since May but already has seen his father hoist four trophies. He still may fit inside the FedExCup.

It was a year that included a birth and an arrest, and he was victorious through a protest and an injury that almost forced him out of THE PLAYERS. But the trophies remained the biggest story. Through it all, he was unapologetically himself, sticking to the same philosophy that got him this far.

He relies on a simplicity that belies his achievements. Golf is supposed to be a complex game, but Scheffler sticks to the same fundamentals that his swing coach, Randy Smith, has been emphasizing since Scottie was a kid.

"Simple sometimes works best," Smith said. It did this year.

Warming up before the third round of the TOUR Championship, he was the only player on the practice range without a launch monitor sitting next to him. He uses a practice club with the same instructional grip that is often given to beginners, and he inspects the clubface, ensuring it's square, before each practice shot. He often looks at his feet on the course, trying to focus on only his next step.

"I've always taken golf very seriously," he once said. "I think that's why I try to focus so much on the present, just staying present."

The final week of the FedExCup

Playoffs is a challenge to that mindset, though, because its format can almost present a premature coronation. The two-shot advantage that the FedExCup leader holds once he sets foot on the property is a reflection of all he's accomplished during the season. There's the temptation for reflection even though the final standings are still four rounds from being determined. There's also a TOUR player's inherent pride, which makes losing after being given a lead unacceptable.

"I should win the tournament if I'm starting ahead of people. That's how I feel," Scheffler said. "So maybe the last couple years I've put too much pressure on myself to perform ... but this year I did a good job of just staying in it mentally and keeping my head down."

Scheffler is intensely competitive, whether at home in Dallas, where he gives 20 strokes to the mid-handicap members at Royal Oaks, or on the PGA TOUR. That's why winning the FedExCup was so important to him. He didn't want another season where there was a dichotomy between the vote of his peers for Player of the Year and the final scoreboard.

There is a finality to the TOUR Championship that adds significance. With the pursuit of the FedExCup complete, there is space to ruminate on the result. There is no next tournament or venue to focus on. That's what made his loss here two years ago so difficult. He described it as "pretty challenging ... to handle" and said he was "very sad" after losing a six-shot lead to Rory McIlroy in the final round.

Sadness is not an emotion that is readily confessed to by professional athletes, who hope to convey an intimidating air, but the 2022 TOUR Championship represented a disappointing end to an otherwise impeccable season that rapidly changed the course of Scheffler's career. He won four times in a six-week span, earning both his first PGA TOUR title and his first major in the process. He rapidly ascended to world No. 1, as well. Losing the TOUR Championship may have been the only thing that didn't go his way.

"I didn't expect things to finish that way," he said.

Scheffler won twice last year, including his first PLAYERS, to return to East Lake as No. 1 seed. He broke par just one round at the TOUR Championship, however. Scheffler was still No. 1 when this year began, but he also was amid a winless drought that stretched to 51 weeks before he won the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.

That duration was defined by his struggles on the greens. It was a frustrating span

because his putting kept him from capitalizing on his peerless ball-striking, and it was a shortcoming that was the source of constant questions. It led to the most scrutiny he'd faced in his reign as the game's top player.

Scheffler had been experimenting behind the scenes with new putters, however, and had enlisted putting coach Phil Kenyon the previous fall. It was at Bay Hill that Scheffler debuted the mallet putter that he used in each of his eight wins this year.

"I felt like I was kind of gradually building towards something," he said.

He committed to relying on the same athleticism that set him apart on long shots instead of obsessing over mechanics. He also ceased seeking perfection on the greens.

He won by five strokes at Bay Hill while finishing fifth in Strokes Gained: Putting (he led the field in that metric in the final round). It was the start of a five-tournament stretch where he won four times, and he was one 6-footer in Houston from potentially sweeping them all.

A week after his win at Bay Hill, he became the first player to win back-to-back PLAYERS titles despite a neck injury that nearly forced him to withdraw. Then he won a second Masters with an exquisite display of ball control on a blustery week at Augusta National. By winning the following week, he became the first player since Bernhard Langer in 1985 to win at Augusta National and Harbour Town in consecutive weeks.

It was reminiscent of Scheffler's breakout season in 2022 when he won four times in six starts – except this time, he just kept going. He was away for a month for the birth of his first child, then returned to a chaotic week at the PGA Championship. He still finished in the top 10 at Valhalla, then had two wins (and a runner-up) in his next four starts. Nicklaus' Memorial Tournament presented by Workday was Scheffler's first win as a father. At the Travelers Championship he beat Tom Kim in a playoff after protesters stormed the 72nd green.

The Olympics may not count towards his PGA TOUR win total this season, but it was among his most impressive feats of the year. His Sunday 62 included a 29 on his final nine to make up a large deficit and win the gold medal.

Scheffler leads the TOUR in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green for the second consecutive year, and he is on pace to lead in Greens in Regulation for the third straight season. He is gaining nearly 2.5 strokes per round from tee-to-green, almost a shot per round better than Xander Schauffele, who ranks second in that statistic. And his putting is now a tick above average (+0.03 strokes gained per round), which is all he needs.

It was an incredible season that got the ending it deserved. Scottie Scheffler is finally a FedExCup champion.

U.S. Presidents Cup Team



Written by Staff

The U.S. Team for the 2024 Presidents Cup was finalized today, with Captain Jim Furyk selecting six players to round out his 12-player team. Furyk selected Keegan Bradley, Sam Burns, Tony Finau, Brian Harman, Russell Henley and Max Homa. The Presidents Cup returns to The Royal Montreal Golf Club in Montreal the week of Sept. 24-29, 2024.

Captain's picks - U.S. Team

Keegan Bradley

- **Age: 38**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 7**
- **Presidents Cup: 1 (2013), 2-2-1**

2024 Highlights: Notched the seventh win of his PGA TOUR career at the BMW Championship after entering the week at No. 50 in the FedExCup. The victory, which was one of three top-10s on the season, allowed him to advance to the TOUR Championship for the sixth time in his career.

Captain Furyk on Bradley: "When I named Keegan as a captain's assistant for the Presidents Cup I knew there was a chance he would play his way onto the U.S. Team, and I can say without a doubt he did just that. The grit he showed in the final round in Memphis followed by the win in Denver exemplified the competitive nature he has always played with, and I know he will bring that same fire to Royal Montreal in a few weeks."

Sam Burns

- **Age: 28**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 5**
- **Presidents Cup: 1 (2022), 0-3-2**

2024 Highlights: Posted eight top-10 finishes including a T2 at the BMW Championship and a T3 at the Waste

Management Phoenix Open. Advanced to his fourth straight TOUR Championship after being the only player to post top-five finishes in each of the first two FedExCup Playoffs events.

Captain Furyk on Burns: "Sam is a great player who has consistently put himself on leaderboards over the last four years. He has proven to excel in match play competition and demonstrates an unwavering level of passion and determination on the course, which will be a great asset for our team in Montreal."

Tony Finau

- **Age: 34**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 6**
- **Presidents Cup: 2 (2019, 2022), 3-2-3**

2024 Highlights: Owns five top-10 finishes including a season-best T2 at the Texas Children's Houston Open. Matched his career-best finish in a major championship with a T3 at the U.S. Open, finishing two shots behind winner Bryson DeChambeau.

Captain Furyk on Finau: "Tony is one of the best ball-strikers on the PGA TOUR and his game pairs well with any of the other 11 players given his consistency. He has become a stalwart in U.S. team competition and carries himself with a fun, outgoing demeanor which is contagious on the course and in the team room."

Brian Harman

- **Age: 37**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 3**
- **Presidents Cup: First appearance**

2024 Highlights: Recorded three top-10 finishes including a T2 at THE PLAYERS Championship, where he fell one shot shy of winner Scottie Scheffler. Finished 31st in the FedExCup to miss advancing to the TOUR Championship for a third straight

season.

Captain Furyk on Harman: "Throughout his career, Brian has been one of the fiercest match play competitors I've seen. His grit and tenacity were on full display winning the 2023 Open Championship, and I'm looking forward to having that mindset on our side at Royal Montreal."

Russell Henley

- **Age: 35**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 4**
- **Presidents Cup: First appearance**

2024 Highlights: Has posted six top-10 finishes on the season, including three fourth-place showings and a solo fifth at The Open Championship.

Captain Furyk on Henley: "Russell has been one of the most consistent players on the PGA TOUR these last two years, and I can't wait to have him in Montreal with the U.S. Team next month. He is unflappable under pressure and without doubt one of the best putters in our game, which is a fantastic combination for match play success."

Max Homa

- **Age: 33**
- **PGA TOUR Wins: 6**
- **Presidents Cup: 1 (2022), 4-0-0**

2024 Highlights: Recorded three top-10 finishes including his career-best effort in a major championship where he was T3 at the Masters Tournament.

Captain Furyk on Homa: "Max plays his best on the biggest stages, and that was on full display at the 2022 Presidents Cup and 2023 Ryder Cup. He was an emotional leader for both teams and someone who rallied the 11 players around him time and again, and I can't wait to have him represent the U.S. again in Montreal."

International President's Cup Team



International Team Captain Mike Weir announces six picks for 2024 Presidents Cup

Written by Staff

The International Team for the 2024 Presidents Cup was finalized today, with International Team Captain Mike Weir selecting six players to round out his 12-player team. Weir selected South Africa's Christiaan Bezuidenhout, Canada's Corey Conners, Taylor Pendrith and Mackenzie Hughes, South Korea's Si Woo Kim and Australia's Min Woo Lee. The Presidents Cup returns to The Royal Montreal Golf Club in Montreal the week of Sept. 24-29, 2024.

Of the six captain's picks, Hughes and Lee are first-time participants, with Kim making his Presidents Cup debut in 2017, and Bezuidenhout, Conners and Pendrith doing so in 2022. In total, five countries are represented on the International Team: Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and South Korea.

Captain's picks - International Team Christiaan Bezuidenhout

- Country: South Africa
 - Age: 30
 - Best PGA TOUR Finish: 2, The American Express (2024); T2, John Deere Classic (2022)
 - Presidents Cup: 1 (2022), 1-0-1
- 2024 Highlights: Recorded a season-best runner-up finish at The American Express, where he lost to Nick Dunlap by one shot. Owns a career-best 12 top-25 finishes on the PGA TOUR this season, including three top-10s.

Captain Weir on Bezuidenhout:

"Christiaan is having the best year of his

PGA TOUR career and it's exciting to watch him cement his name alongside all of the great South Africans who have competed in multiple Presidents Cups. He is incredibly steady on and off the golf course and is a player whose game will mesh well with any partner on the InternationalTeam."

Corey Conners

- Country: Canada
- Age: 32
- PGA TOUR Wins: 2
- Presidents Cup: 1 (2022), 0-4-0

2024 Highlights: Has notched three top-10 finishes in 2024 including a season-best, solo-sixth-place effort at the RBC Canadian Open.

Captain Weir on Conners: "Corey is one of the best ball-strikers on the PGA TOUR and his ability to consistently put himself and his playing partner in a position to attack is invaluable in team competition. He has looked towards the 2024 Presidents Cup for two years now, and I know he's eager to compete in front of his fellow Canadians."

Mackenzie Hughes

- Country: Canada
- Age: 33
- PGA TOUR Wins: 2
- Presidents Cup: First appearance

2024 Highlights: Has recorded three top-10 finishes including a season-best T3 at the Valspar Championship. Only missed four cuts in 22 starts, marking a career best.

Captain Weir on Hughes: "Canadian golf fans have followed Mackenzie's career for nearly two decades and it's incredible to know he's going to make his Presidents Cup debut in his home country. He is steady and calm under pressure and is without doubt one of the best putters on the

PGA TOUR, which is a great combination for our team."

Si Woo Kim

- Country: South Korea
- Age: 29
- PGA TOUR Wins: 4
- Presidents Cup: 2 (2017, 2022), 4-3-0

2024 Highlights: Recorded two top-10 finishes including a T6 at THE PLAYERS Championship and a T5 at the BMW Championship. Finished 32nd in the FedExCup to narrowly miss on advancing to the TOUR Championship for the third time in his career.

Captain Weir on Kim: "Si Woo brings a wealth of experience to our team room, as well as a great record in the Presidents Cup. He has been a stalwart on PGA TOUR leaderboards since 2016 and has demonstrated an ability to perform his best when the pressure is at its highest, which will be a great asset for us in Montreal."

Min Woo Lee

- Country: Australia
- Age: 26
- Best PGA TOUR Finish: T2, Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches (2024), Rocket Mortgage Classic (2024)
- Presidents Cup: First appearance

2024 Highlights: Recorded the best finishes of his PGA TOUR career with matching T2 efforts at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches and the Rocket Mortgage Classic, where he bogeyed the 72nd hole to fall one shot shy of winner Cam Davis.

Captain Weir on Lee: "As one of the most popular players on the PGA TOUR, Min Woo is going to be an incredible addition to the International Team and our passionate fans in Montreal. He is one of the best drivers of the golf ball on the PGA TOUR,

and I can't wait to let him cook at the Presidents Cup in a few weeks."

Taylor Pendrith

- Country: Canada
- Age: 33
- PGA TOUR Wins: 1
- Presidents Cup: 1 (2022), 0-4-0

2024 Highlights: Picked up the first win of his PGA TOUR career at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson. Recorded five additional top-10 finishes while advancing to the TOUR Championship for the first time.

Captain Weir on Pendrith: "Taylor is in the midst of his best year on the PGA TOUR, and it was great to see him breakthrough for his first win in Dallas and advancing to the TOUR Championship. He has built a reputation as one of the longest hitters in our game, and that length should be advantageous in match play competition at Royal Montreal."



SMU to host BYU Friday Night



This is the fifth meeting on the gridiron between BYU and SMU with the Cougars holding a 4-0 advantage

BYU (1-0) at SMU (1-0)
Friday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. / ESPN2
Line: SMU -10.5 / 55.5

College football's 2024 season resumes with Week 2 action on Friday night, as SMU hosts BYU in a key ACC-Big 12 non-conference clash. Both teams have plenty to prove entering this contest. All signs point to a wide-open ACC race, and the Mustangs need to improve each week to have a shot at getting into the conference title game. The Cougars aim to return to the bowl scene after a 5-7 mark, and with a difficult slate on tap in league play, a win over SMU would help coach Kalani Sitake's team in reaching its goal of post-season play.

SMU opened its '24 campaign by rallying to beat Nevada 29-24 in Week Zero, followed by a 59-7 victory over Houston Christian last week. This game marks a critical four-game stretch for coach Rhett Lashlee's squad. After BYU, the Mustangs take on TCU, Florida State, and play at Louisville.

The Cougars ended '23 on a five-game losing streak but quickly snapped that skid with a 41-13 victory against Southern Illinois in Week 1. The schedule won't get any easier for Sitake's team next week, as it faces a tricky road trek to Wyoming, followed by the Big 12 opener versus Kansas State on Sept. 21.

This is the fifth meeting on the gridiron between BYU and SMU. The Cougars own a 4-0 record in the series. The last meeting took place in the '22 New Mexico Bowl, with BYU winning 24-23.

Last year's 5-7 record was a disappointment. However, the '23 campaign is in the past, and the Cougars made the necessary offseason tweaks to improve in their sec-

ond year in the Big 12. Sitake's squad started '24 on the right path by showing progress on both sides of the ball in a 41-13 win over Southern Illinois.

After an extended battle in fall practice, Jake Retzlaff won the starting quarterback job over Gerry Bohanon and was sharp in the opener. In his second year with the team, Retzlaff threw for 348 yards and three scores over 20 completions, suggesting the passing game could be poised for a big step forward in '24. SMU's defense entered the year with some turnover at cornerback, giving Retzlaff a chance to build off his promising opener on Friday night.

In addition to Retzlaff's promising debut, the LJ Martin and Hinckley Ropati duo on the ground combined for 124 yards on 26 carries - a promising sign for BYU after the team ranked No. 14 in the Big 12 in rushing offense last year.

Containing SMU's versatile and high-powered offense is a huge challenge for the Cougars' defense. However, Sitake and coordinator Jay Hill should have optimism for the defense, which allowed 29.8 points per contest in '23. The opener versus SIU was a step in the right direction (just 231 yards allowed), especially after Sitake added reinforcements through the portal in Weber State transfers in linebacker Jack Kelly and defensive back Marque Collins. BYU may not be able to completely contain SMU, but a bend-but-don't break group that provides more resistance than the '23 version increases victory hopes for Sitake.

The Mustangs simply have too much firepower for BYU to keep pace and are the better team overall in this Friday night matchup. Through two contests, Lashlee's team is averaging 6.9 yards per snap and

44 points a game.

Quarterback Preston Stone has showed a little rust in his return from a season-ending leg injury in '23 but is still playing at a high level. The junior has passed for 332 yards and three scores so far this fall, with backup Kevin Jennings (14 of 19 for 202 yards and 58 rushing yards) also expected to see time on Friday night.

In addition to having two capable quarterbacks, SMU doesn't lack for skill talent - a bad matchup for a BYU defense that allowed 29.8 points per contest in '23. Miami transfer Brashard Smith paces the team with 178 rushing yards and three scores (8.5 yards a carry), with receivers Jake Bailey (four catches), Key'Shawn Smith (two), Roderick Daniels Jr. (five), Jordan Hudson (three), Romello Brinson (four) poised to test the depth and coverage ability of a BYU secondary that surrendered 21 passing touchdowns last year. And if that depth at receiver wasn't enough,

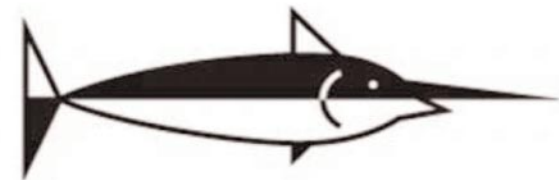
tight end RJ Maryland (nine catches for 173 yards so far in '24) is a matchup nightmare.

SMU's defense showed marked improvement last year, cutting its points a game total allowed down from 33.8 in '22 to 17.8 in '23. And with six starters back and some help from the portal, the Mustangs could have one of the ACC's top defenses in '24. Moving the ball won't be easy for BYU's offense.

Final Analysis

Even though SMU was tested and nearly defeated by Nevada in Week Zero, this game should provide a better window into how this team stacks up in '24. And the same is certainly true about BYU after an easy win against Southern Illinois in Week 1. Both teams still have some mystery, but the Mustangs are better on defense and simply have too much firepower offensively.

Pick: SMU 34, BYU 24



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SEC football predictions - Week 2

By Robert Cortinez

The SEC was dominant last week in its soft games, with six teams winning by 60 or more points. However, in three of the four marquee, non-conference matchups, Texas A&M v. Notre Dame, Florida v. Miami, and LSU v. USC, the SEC went 0-3, knocking a little luster off the league's reputation. #1 Georgia was the sole dominant SEC team in the heavyweight non-conference tilts, beating Clemson with ease, 34-3.

This week will be mostly repeats of cupcakes games, with four exceptions; #3 Texas @ #10 Michigan, Arkansas @ #16 Oklahoma State, #14 Tennessee @ North Carolina State and Mississippi State @ Arizona State.

Last week: *Straight: 12-4; ATL: 6-10*

Arkansas (1-0) @ #16 Oklahoma St (1-0)
11:00 a.m. / ABC

Line: Arkansas +7.5 / O/U 60.5

Last week, the Hogs destroyed UAPB, 70-0 while scoring TD's on all 10 offensive possessions. Oklahoma State subdued two time defending FCS champ South Dakota State 44-20. South Dakota State would have beaten Arkansas's opponent UAPB by three touchdowns. Should be a tight game in Stillwater. Razorback offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino, is known to pull off the road upset.

Pick: Arkansas 37 Oklahoma State 34

#3 Texas @ #10 Michigan
11:00 a.m. / FOX

Line: Texas -7 / O/U 44.5

The Longhorns easily dispatched Colorado State 52-0 last week, while Michigan had trouble with visiting Fresno State. The Wolverines were leading only 16-10 in the fourth quarter before a late touchdown and pick-six settled the final score at 30-10. Texas' talent is superior to the defending champion Michigan's much depleted offense and defense. Longhorns overcome the Big House mystique and take this high stakes affair.

Pick: Texas 28 Michigan 24

McNeese State (1-1) @ Texas A&M (0-1)
11:45 a.m. / SECN

Line: No line

The Aggie's defense allowed Notre Dame 198 rushing yards in last week's contest. The Fighting Irish broke a 13-13 tie with 1:54 left in the 4th quarter, to pull ahead 20-13. After a three and out by the Aggies, the Irish tacked on a field goal, winning the game 23-13. McNeese State evened its 2024 record by beating Southern University 21-7 at home. McNeese lost to

Tarleton State in week zero, 26-23. The Cowboys won't lay down for the Aggies but should be an easy win for Texas A&M.
Pick: Texas A&M 33 McNeese State 12

Tennessee Tech (0-1) @ #1 Georgia (1-0)
1:00 p.m. / SECN+

Line: No line

The Georgia Bulldogs are either much better than expected or the ClemsonTigers are much worse than predicted. Georgia had no problem with former #14 Clemson, beating the Tigers 34-3. Tennessee Tech lost to Middle Tennessee, 32-25 and will remain winless on the season after Saturday. The Dawgs get a cake walk before next week's road game at Kentucky.
Pick: Georgia 49 Tennessee Tech 6

California (1-0) @ Auburn (1-0)
2:30 p.m. / ESPN2

Line: Auburn -13.5 / O/U 53.5

Auburn destroyed Alabama A&M 73-3 in its home opener. On the west coast, the California Golden Bears beat UC Davis 31-13. California had a narrow 14-13 half-time lead and were losing every statistical category before outsourcing UC Davis 17-0 in the second half. Auburn's beat down of Alabama A&M was done in shortened, 10 minute 3rd and 4th quarters. The Tigers give no southern hospitality to their west coast neighbors.

Pick: Auburn 37 California 20

South Carolina (1-0) @ Kentucky (1-0)
2:30 pm / ABC

Line: Kentucky -10 / O/U 45.5

The Gamecocks survived a huge home scare rallying late in the 4th quarter, to beat Old Dominion, 23-19. South Carolina was outplayed the entire game but the Monarchs fumbled inside their 10 yard line, twice, giving the Gamecocks their only two touchdowns of the game. Kentucky had no such problems with Southern Miss, pasting the Golden Eagles 31-0. The Wildcats won in two and half quarters as the game was called due to lightning. Big Blue takes this one.

Pick: Kentucky 41 South Carolina 17

Middle Tenn. (1-0) @ #6 Ole Miss (1-0)
3:15 p.m. / SECN

Line: Ole Miss -41 / O/U 63.5

The Ole Miss Rebels were one of three SEC teams, Arkansas and Auburn were the other two, who won by 70 or more points in their opener, beating Furman 76-0. Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin is believed by many to have a legit chance at winning this year's national championship. Middle Tennessee gets paid a whopping \$1.6 mil-

lion to take this week's whupping in Oxford.

Pick: Ole Miss 58 Middle Tennessee 6

Samford (0-1) @ Florida (0-1)

6:00 p.m. / SECN+

Line: No Line

Florida got stomped in the swamp last week 41-14 by #12 Miami. Gator head coach Billy Napier's seat gets a little hotter but this week's cupcake should quiet the haters for the time being. Samford suffered a season opening road loss to West Georgia, 39-29. Florida needs to take care of business this week, before opening SEC play against Texas A&M next week.

Pick: Florida 48 Samford 12

South Florida (1-0) @ #4 Alabama (1-0)
6:00 p.m. / ESPN

Line: Alabama -31 / O/U: 63.5

The Crimson Tide took down Western Kentucky with ease, 63-0. An impressive debut for new Bama head coach Kalen DeBoer. The Hilltoppers had won 8 games and a bowl game last year. The South Florida Bulls were also impressive in their home opener, beating Bethune-Cookman, 48-3. South Florida will have no answer for Tide QB Jalen Milroe who accounted for 5 TDS; three passing and two rushing. This game will go Bama's way early.

Pick: Alabama 47 South Alabama 12

Buffalo (1-0) @ #9 Missouri (1-0)
6:00 pm. / SECN+

Line: Missouri -34 / O/U 51.5

Missouri pitched a shut-out of Murray State 51-0 and moved into the AP Top 10. Under 5th year head coach Eli Drinkwitz, the Tigers have become one the SEC's elite teams. Buffalo won its opener against Lafayette, 30-13. The Bulls are an FBS school out of the MAC Conference but don't stand a chance against this talented Missouri squad led by returning QB Brady Cook.

Pick: Missouri 48 Buffalo 10

Alcorn State (0-1) @ Vanderbilt (1-0)
6:30 / ESPNU

Pick: No line

Vandy shocked the betting world and beat Virginia Tech as 13 point underdogs in OT, 34-27. The Commodores were simply better than the Hokies in every aspect of this game. Credit goes to head coach Clark Lea who simply said his team had to "step into the belief" that they can win. Vanderbilt has to rein in the emotions and not overlook Alcorn State who lost 41-3 to UAB last week. Vandy's players look like SEC athletes.

Pick: Vanderbilt 38 Alcorn State 10

Nicholls State (0-1) @ #18 LSU (0-1)
6:30 p.m. / SECN+

Line: No Line

LSU's Brian Kelly, is 0-3 in openers in his third year as the Tiger's head coach. LSU had no answer for #13 USC QB Miller Moss who threw for 378 yds on 27 of 36 attempts. Moss carved up the vaunted Tiger defense, driving 75 yds in the last 1:50 of the game to win 27-20. Nicholls State is an in-state opponent who got beat by upstate rival Louisiana Tech, 25-17, in week one. LSU will vent their Vegas hang-over in this Baton Rouge night game.

Pick: LSU 55 Nicholls State 9

#14 Tennessee (1-0) @ N.C. State (1-0)
6:30 p.m. / ABC

Line: Tennessee -7.5 / O/U 60.5

Tennessee waltzed all over the Chattanooga Mocs in its home opener, 69-3. Vols QB, Nico Lamaleava, threw for 314 yards and 3 TD's while his RB, Dylan Sampson, also had 3 TD's on only 12 carries for 124 yds. NC State was tied with Western Carolina to start the 4th quarter, before scoring 21 unanswered points to win 38-21. Going with the visiting Vols.

Pick: Tennessee 35 NC State 26

Houston (0-1) @ #15 Oklahoma
6:45 / SECN

Line: Oklahoma: -29.5 / O/U 52.5

The Houston Cougars lived up to their preseason conference ranking (15th out of the 16 member Big 12), getting drubbed by UNLV, 27-7, in their home opener. Meanwhile, Oklahoma lived up to their lofty expectations, beating FBS and AAC member Temple, 51-3. Sooner head coach Brent Venable wants to improve on last year's 10-3 record and won't go easy on the Cougars and their first year head coach Will Fritz, in the Palace on the Prairie.

Pick: Oklahoma 44 Houston 10

Mississippi St (1-0) @ Arizona St.(1-0)
9:30 pm, / ESPN

Line: Mississippi State +6.5 / O/U 56.5

Newly minted Big 12 member Arizona St. gets a home game against SEC Mississippi St. in an interesting late night match up. The Bulldogs blitzed Eastern Kentucky 56-7 in HC Jeff Lebby's, Mississippi St. debut. Arizona St. manhandled Wyoming, 48-7, giving second year HC, Kenny Dillingham, a lot of positives to lean on this week. If the Sun Devils can win at home it would be their first ever win over an SEC team.

Pick: Arizona St. 33 Mississippi St. 24

Big 12 Football predictions - Week 2



By Bill Bender

In Week 1, I went 15-1 in my Big 12 score predictions and even came pretty close to landing on the exact score of a few games. Let's see if we can go a perfect 16-0 this week to get off to a red-hot start to the 2024 season.

Here are our picks against the spread for Big 12 Week 2:

Arkansas (1-0) at #16 Ok. State (1-0)
11 a.m. / ABC

Line: Cowboys -7.5 / 60.5

The Cowboys were on upset alert last week but blew out South Dakota State. The Razorbacks have a better chance here – and the combination of new offensive coordinator Bobby Petrno and quarterback Taylen Green will be dangerous. Green totaled 229 passing yards, 88 rushing yards and four total TDs in the Razorbacks' opener. These teams haven't met since 1980, and Arkansas 30-15 all-time lead in the series.
Pick: Oklahoma St. 35 Arkansas 30

#17 Kansas State (1-0) at Tulane
11 a.m. / ESPN+

Line: Wildcats -9 / 47.5

Tulane beat Kansas State 17-10 in 2022, and now the Wildcats have the return game. It's a big spot for the Green Wave and first-year coach Jon Sumrall, who was the coach at Troy last season. The Wildcats beat Sumrall and the Trojans 42-13 last year, and this one has a similar feel to it. The combination of Avery Johnson and DJ Giddens will take over in the second half, and the Wildcats' run defense will be a difference-maker. The trend is tricky knowing Kansas State is 5-2 S/U and 2-3-2 ATS as a road favorite the last three seasons. The line also has dropped a half-point. We'll take the original value.
Pick: Kansas State 30 Tulane 20

Baylor (1-0) at #11 Utah (1-0)
2:30 p.m. / FOX

Line: Utah -15 / 55.5

Cam Rising returned in style with five

TDs in his first game since 2023, and the Utes will open Big 12 play against Baylor, which received a jolt from Toledo transfer quarterback DeQuan Finn. Dave Aranda is calling the plays, and the Bears might be a little more competitive this year as a result. Finn will still make a few mistakes against a strong Utah defense, and that will be the difference. Baylor is 8-5-2 ATS as a road underdog with Aranda, and this will be tight for a while.
Pick: Utah 28 Baylor 17

Iowa State (1-0) at #21 Iowa (1-0)
2:30 p.m. / CBS

Line: Iowa -3 / 35.5

Iowa scored 40 points in the opener, and Cade McNamara passed for 251 yards and three TDs. Rocco Becht passed for 267 yards, two TDs and no interceptions for the Cyclones in Week 1. Those quarterbacks are near-mirror images, and both teams will favor a conservative approach in the in-state rivalry game. Iowa State is a popular upset pick, but they have never beat a ranked Iowa team at Kinnick Stadium. Kirk Ferentz returns from the one-game suspension, and the Hawkeyes beat Iowa State for the eighth time in nine games.
Pick: Iowa 20 Iowa State 12

#22 Kansas (1-0) at Illinois (1-0)
7 p.m. / FS1

Line: Jayhawks -5 / 57.5

This is a tricky road game for Kansas. Yes, the Jayhawks beat the Illini 34-23 last season, and quarterback Jalon Daniels is healthy. This is an improved Illinois team, however, even if they are 3-4 ATS as a home underdog under Bret Bielema. If the running back tandem of Devin Neal and Daniel Hishaw – which combined to average 10.4 yards per carry in the opener against Eastern Illinois – has success, then the Jayhawks will be fine on the road.
Pick: Kansas 30 Illinois 22

Houston (0-1) at #15 Oklahoma (1-0)
7:45 p.m. / SEC Network

Line: Sooners -28 / 50

The line spiked by more than a touchdown after the Sooners' impressive 51-3 opener against Temple combined with Houston's 27-7 loss to UNLV. Oklahoma's defense forced six turnovers in the opener. Jackson Arnold will stay in control here, and Oklahoma will not be afraid to pour it on the second half given the opportunity.
Pick: Oklahoma 48 Houston 14

Mississippi St (1-0) @ Arizona St.(1-0)
9:30 pm, / ESPN

Line: Mississippi State +6.5 / O/U 56.5

Newly minted Big 12 member Arizona St. gets a home game against SEC Mississippi St. in an interesting late night match up. The Bulldogs blitzed Eastern Kentucky 56-7 in HC Jeff Leiby's, Mississippi St. debut. Arizona St. manhandled Wyoming, 48-7, giving second year HC, Kenny Dillingham, a lot of positives to lean on this week. If the Sun Devils can win at home it would be their first ever win over an SEC team.
Pick: Arizona St. 33 Mississippi St. 24

BYU (1-0) at SMU (1-0)

Friday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. / ESPN2

Line: SMU -10.5 / 55.5

SMU is a very underrated team that could end up making a little bit of noise in the ACC this year. Boy, that felt weird to type. QB Preston Stone has a big day leading the Mustangs to victory.
Pick: SMU 34, BYU 17

Pittsburgh (1-0) at Cincinnati (1-0)
11:00 a.m / ESPN2

Line: Bearcats -2 / 62.5

Flip a coin. Both teams are bad.

Pick: Pitt 27, Cincinnati 26

Baylor (1-0) at #11 Utah (1-0)
2:30 / CBS

Line: Utes -15 / 55.5

This is not a Big 12 Conference game. This was scheduled prior to Utah coming over from the PAC 12, so it remains a "non-conference" matchup. Conference game or not, Utah wins this one with ease.
Pick: Utah 38, Baylor 14

Albany (1-0) at West Virginia (0-1)
5:00 / ESPN+

Line: NL

We'll release the score prediction tomorrow in a separate article, but it shouldn't take a rocket scientist to figure out who I'll be picking in this one. WVU is 24-0 all-time against FCS opponents. I'll go ahead and disclose.
Pick: WVU 40 Albany 7

Sam Houston State (1-0) at UCF (1-0)

5:30 / ESPN+

Line: UCF -21.5 / 55.5

How long can Sam Houston keep this a game? That's the real question.

Pick: UCF 56, Sam Houston 7

Colorado (1-0) at Nebraska (1-0)

6:30 / NBC Peacock

Line: Cornhuskers -7 / 56.5

A year ago, this game wouldn't have moved the needle. Now, everyone will have their eyes on this one to see which program could be on the verge of turning things around. The Cornhuskers should be able to win the battle of the trenches on both sides, so that's where I'm leaning.

Pick: Nebraska 30, Colorado 24

Houston (0-1) @ #15 Oklahoma

6:45 / SECN

Line: Oklahoma: -29.5 / O/U 52.5

The Houston Cougars lived up to their preseason conference ranking (15th out of the 16 member Big 12), getting drubbed by UNLV, 27-7, in their home opener. Meanwhile, Oklahoma lived up to their lofty expectations, beating FBS and AAC member Temple, 51-3. Sooner head coach Brent Venable wants to improve on last year's 10-3 record and won't go easy on the Cougars and their first year head coach Will Fritz, in the Palace on the Prairie.
Pick: Oklahoma 44 Houston 10

Long Island U. (0-1) at TCU (1-0)

7:00 / ESPN+

Line: NL

Don't lessen the value of TCU's road win against Stanford. Sure, the Cardinal are expected to be a bottom of the barrel ACC team, but that's a tough game to open your season with. They'll have a much easier time this weekend against the Sharks.

Pick: TCU 49, Long Island 3

Northern Arizona (1-0) at Arizona (1-0)

9:00 / ESPN+

Line: NL

The Wildcats look like they're going to be able to score on just about everybody. The concern is their defense, who gave up 39 to New Mexico. No sweat here, but they'll give up a few scores.

Pick: Arizona 59, Northern Arizona 17

Texas Tech (1-0) at Washington St. (1-0)

9:00 / FOX

Line: Cougars -2.5 / 65.5

Tech gave up 51 to Abilene Christian in Week 1 and needed overtime to win the game. Winning on the road against another Power Four team? They're not ready to accomplish that just yet. Give me the Cougars.

Pick: Washington St. 48, Texas Tech 41

NFL picks, predictions for Week 1

	KICKOFF THUR 9/5/24 820PMET, NBC		SAN PAULO FRI 9/6/24 815PMET, PEACOCK
	1PMET, FOX		1PMET, CBS
	1PMET, FOX		1PMET, CBS
	1PMET, CBS		1PMET, CBS
	1PMET, FOX		1PMET, FOX
	405PMET, CBS		405PMET, CBS
	425PMET, FOX		425PMET, FOX
	[SNF] 820PMET, NBC		[MNF] MON 9/9/24 815PMET, ESPN/ABC

NFL picks, predictions for Week 1: Packers squeak past Eagles, Cowboys upset Browns, Chargers edge Raiders

By Bill Bender

The 2024 NFL Draft featured six quarterbacks in the first round, but how many of those quarterbacks will score a victory in Week 1 of the NFL season?

Chicago's Caleb Williams, Washington's Jayden Daniels, Denver's Bo Nix, and possibly New England's Drake Maye will open the season in starting roles, and they all face tough tasks out of the gates.

The Bears are the only favored team among that bunch, which puts the spotlight on Williams heading into a home opener against the Titans. Remember when Justin Fields led Chicago to a victory against San Francisco in Week 1? The Bears are burning to get back in the NFC playoff picture. To do that, they can't lose games like this.

Baltimore at Kansas City
Thursday, 7:20 p.m., NBC/Peacock
Line: Chiefs -3 / 46.5

It's an AFC championship rematch and

another head-to-head matchup between Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson. The Chiefs are 4-1 in those previous matchups. Will Derrick Henry, 30, help flip the script for Baltimore, or will the Chiefs' march to a possible three-peat start in style? Kansas City lost the Week 1 Thursday Night Football opener last season in a game defined by dropped passes. This one is cleaner, and Kansas City continues to one-up Baltimore in the fourth quarter.

Pick: Chiefs 27, Ravens 21

Green Bay vs. Philadelphia
Friday, 7:15 p.m., Peacock
Line: Eagles -2.5 / 48.5

Football in Brazil will be entertaining with a quarterback duel between Jalen Hurts and Jordan Love with new running backs Saquon Barkley and Josh Jacobs. On top of that, both teams have new defensive coordinators in Vic Fangio and Jeff Hafley. The Packers couldn't stop the run last season. The Eagles couldn't stop the pass. Look for a shootout, with the Packers winning on a walk-off field goal – if Green Bay has the right kicker.

Pick: Packers 31, Eagles 28

Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Sunday, 12 p.m. Fox
Line: Falcons -3 / 42

Two teams with quarterback drama in the offseason face off. Mike Tomlin chose Russell Wilson, but it's possible that both Wilson and Fields play on the road. Atlanta will go with Kirk Cousins with first-round pick Michael Penix Jr. watching. Atlanta was 5-3 S/U at home last year. The Steelers were 5-4 S/U on the road. It is a true coin-flip game, and we are going to trust Tomlin makes the right choice.

Pick: Steelers 26, Falcons 21

Arizona at Buffalo
Sunday, 12 p.m. CBS
Line: Buffalo -6 / 42

Buffalo traded Stefon Diggs in the off-season, and Josh Allen still has a rebuilt receiving corps with rookie Keon Coleman and veteran Curtis Samuel. The Bills were 8-2 S/U and 5-5 ATS at home last season, numbers that will be tested against Arizona. Will rookie receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. score his first NFL touchdown? Kyler Murray is 17-14 on the road for his career, which is much better than his home split. Arizona was 2-7 S/U on the road last season. That is a tough trend to overcome.

Pick: Bills 30, Cardinals 20

Tennessee at Chicago
Sunday, 12 p.m. Fox
Line: Bears -4 / 44.5

Williams had ups and downs in the pre-season, but his playmaking upside is high with an improved supporting cast that includes Keenan Allen and first-round pick

Rome Odunze. The defense still needs improvement, however, and second-year quarterback Will Levis will make some plays in a new-look offense with first-year coach Brian Callahan. Tennessee could still pull the upset here, but the Bears get a late turnover to pull off an exciting Week 1 victory.

Pick: Bears 24, Titans 21

New England at Cincinnati
Sunday, 12 p.m. CBS
Line: Bengals -8.5 / 40.5

The largest line of Week 1 has the Bengals at home in Week 1, and Joe Burrow and the starters played more in the preseason this year. That's because Cincinnati has lost in Week 1 in four of the past five seasons, and the only victory was in overtime against Minnesota in 2021. The Patriots open a new chapter with Jerod Mayo, and the key will be avoiding turnovers on the road. Get this line now before it drops during the week.

Pick: Bengals 25, Patriots 17

Houston at Indianapolis
Sunday, 12 p.m. CBS
Line: Texans -2.5 / 48.5

Second-year quarterbacks C.J. Stroud and Anthony Richardson will square off, and this is a chance for Richardson to quiet down the critics after an uneven preseason. The Houston hype is real, and they have won the past two meetings at Lucas Oil Stadium. Stroud keeps that momentum from last season rolling, and a fourth-quarter interception helps the Texans put the Colts away.

Pick: Texans 31, Colts 21

(continued on page 14)

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Jacksonville at Miami
Sunday, 12 p.m. CBS
Dolphins -3 / 49

The Dolphins are 6-2 S/U and average 31 points per game in September under third-year coach Mike McDaniels, and those numbers improve to 3-0 S/U and 37 points per game at home. They are a fast-start team, and Tua Tagovailoa and Tyreek Hill should be able to restore their connection. The defense will be healthy, too. Can Trevor Lawrence turn this into a shootout and make it the highest-scoring game of the week?

Pick: Dolphins 34, Jaguars 28

Carolina at New Orleans
Sunday, 12 p.m. Fox
Saints -4 / 41.5

The Panthers open their second season with Bryce Young, and new coach Dave Canales offers a fresh take on an offense that ranked 31st in the NFL with 13.9 points per game last season. The Saints have won four of the past five meetings at home, and three of those games have been decided by three points. Look for Chase Young to be a difference-maker in his New Orleans debut.

Pick: Saints 25, Panthers 16

Minnesota at New York Giants
Sunday, 12 p.m. Fox
Line: Vikings -1.5 / 41.5

The Vikings will start veteran Sam Darnold on the road. Minnesota was 5-4 S/U on the road last season. Much of the focus on the Giants is on quarterback Daniel Jones and first-round pick Malik Nabers, but the defense under new coordinator Shane Bowen could be the key here in a pick-em matchup. Darnold has a 75.7 career passer rating on the road.

Pick: Giants 21, Vikings 18

Las Vegas at Los Angeles Chargers
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. CBS
Line: Chargers -3 / 40.5

Jim Harbaugh is back in the NFL, and the match with Justin Herbert should rejuvenate the franchise. Antonio Pierce has a head start with the same mission in Las Vegas. The Raiders won the last meeting 63-21, which led to Brandon Staley being fired. Both sides likely remember that one, well. This one will come down to the final drive, and the Chargers will start the Harbaugh era off with a last-minute victory.

Pick: Chargers 23, Raiders 20

Denver at Seattle
Sunday, 3:05 p.m. CBS
Line: Seahawks -6 / 41.5

Nix will make his debut on the road against Seattle and first-year coach Mike Macdonald. The Broncos had a +4 turnover margin last season, and if Nix can be efficient a road upset is possible here. Geno Smith is more familiar with his supporting cast, however, and DK Metcalf and

Kenneth Walker III each will score TDs in a new chapter of Seahawks' football.

Pick: Seahawks 21, Broncos 17

Dallas at Cleveland (-2.5)
Sunday, 3:25 p.m., Fox
Line: Browns -2.5 / 41

No team generates more Week 1 overreactions than Dallas, and this game will not be an exception. The Browns made the playoffs last season, and they were 8-1 S/U at home. Deshaun Watson has just as much on the line from a perception standpoint as Dak Prescott. CeeDee Lamb ended his holdout, and that could impact the line leading up to kickoff. This is a game we would probably stay away from otherwise, but pressed for a pick, we'll take a small upset.

Pick: Cowboys 21, Browns 20

Washington at Tampa Bay
Sunday, 3:25 p.m., Fox
Line: Buccaneers -3 / 44

Jayden Daniels will start for the Commanders after an impressive preseason, and he will meet another Heisman Trophy winner in Baker Mayfield. Washington has emerged as a popular playoff sleeper, which Tampa Bay lived out in real life last year. Mayfield did not have a great home split last season with an 88.2 rating, 10 TDs, and seven interceptions. That is a bit of a red flag, but we'll stick with the home team, which will force a few rookie mistakes from Daniels.

Pick: Buccaneers 26, Commanders 18

Los Angeles at Detroit
Sunday, 7:20 p.m., NBC/Peacock
Line: Lions -3.5 / 50.5

The Lions are a trendy Super Bowl pick again, and the novelty of facing Matthew Stafford has worn off. How will the Rams' interior defense hold up without Aaron Donald, who retired this offseason? The Lions will test that early, and the running game will be a difference in the fourth quarter. Campbell elects for field goals to put the game away late, and newcomer Jake Bates is on the mark. Detroit was 6-4 ATS at home last season.

Pick: Lions 31, Rams 24

New York at San Francisco
Monday, 7:20 p.m., ABC
Line: 49ers -3.5 / 49.5

Rodgers' debut comes against an opponent he knows well, but the 49ers had the preseason drama. Christian McCaffrey (calf) dealt with an injury. Trent Williams is in a holdout, and Brandon Aiyuk is looking for a trade partner. Does that hang over the team against a New York roster that might arrive a year later than expected – and can do so in spectacular fashion on the road? Rodgers keeps it close, but the 49ers get a stop in crunch time.

Pick: 49ers 21, Jets 18

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NFF Research denoted that a NCAA- and NAIA-record 3,534 graduate students are competing in 2024 college football after receiving undergrad degrees. Some of the national notables among these grads are Kaimon Rucker (North Carolina), Emeka Egbuka (Ohio State), Tahj Brooks (Texas Tech), Carson Beck (Georgia), Jarett Hunter (Howard), Clay Webb (Jacksonville State), Trevin Gradney (Montana), and Howard Cross III (Notre Dame).

Former Tennessee Tech football captain and three-time outer space explorer Butch Wilmore is thinking about having an extra big screen shipped to his Boeing orbital capsule for the '24 football season. That is because the decorated U.S. Navy pilot and mission co-pilot Suni Williams (Navy Class of 1987 and lifetime fan of Midshipmen athletics) have had their scheduled eight-day mission in space extended to eight months with a projected earth landing in February. Extra precautions are being taken for the mission after there were some malfunctions in retro rockets and other equipment.

Last week's NFF College Hall of Fame on-campus salutes presented by Fidelity Investments® with presentations of Hall of Fame plaques were Thursday, Aug. 29: Alex Smith, Utah (vs. Southern Utah); and

Friday, Aug. 30, Dewey Selmon, Oklahoma (vs. Temple). Saturday, Sept. 7, ceremonies will honor coach Frank Solich, Nebraska (vs. Colorado) and Steve Hutchinson, Michigan (vs. Texas).

The 133rd season of Texas high school football began overseas in Ireland on Aug. 23 as Episcopal School of Dallas fell to the IMG Academy White Squad 38-28 and then hit full stride stateside on Thursday, Aug. 29. The actual initial context was played between Dallas HS and Fort Worth HS, but limited news media at the time did not report the score or date. By 1893 scores and game reports became a regularity.

The 2024 season NCAA FCS Championship contest will be played on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, in a primetime spot with airtime to be determined on the ESPN family of networks. Site will be Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas, for the 15th consecutive year.

On Aug. 14 the NFF initiated the I Played the Game campaign to foster camaraderie among former players by encouraging them to share their personal stories and experiences on NFF platforms.

As part of this initiative, the NFF has developed an online form to gather information and build a comprehensive database of former players willing to serve as ambassadors for the game. This platform welcomes anyone who has ever played football, regardless of gender or level of play.

To access the website and contribute stories, please go to the link footballfoundation.com/iplayed.

The FWAA-NFF Grantland Rice Top 16 FBS will continue throughout the season and end with the final survey after the College Football Playoff championship encounter on Jan. 20, 2025. The latest survey will be released after Sunday and Monday night contests.

The 66th NFF Awards Dinner is set for Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Las Vegas with sponsorship by the Las Vegas please access FootballFoundation.org.

The NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, which honors individual high school football teams for excellence in the classroom, has continued to expand its reach. The Legacy Foundation has donated a brick outside the stadium to honor the top team in the country each year. Three recipients of the NFF Hatchell Cup Presented by The Original Bob's Steak and Chop House, which goes to the top team, have been honored thus far: Cathedral High School (Ind.), Cypress Woods HS (Texas), and Grundy Center High School (Iowa).

Also on the NFF calendar:

Wednesday, Sept. 25 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® semifinalists; Oct. 23 - Announcement of the 2024 Campbell Trophy® Finalists and the 2024 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class, presented by Fidelity Investments. On-campus salutes to 2024 NFF College Hall of Fame inductees presented by Fidelity Investments are being scheduled and will be revealed in coming days.

The current longest NCAA FBS member streaks without a shutout through Sept. 3 are Florida with a NCAA-record 450 since 1988, TCU with 395 since 1991, Georgia with 373 since 1995, Virginia Tech with 371 since 1995, Nebraska with 352 since 1996 (the only Big Ten Conference team that has scored in every game in the 21st Century), Boise State with 340 since 1997, Iowa with 298, Alabama with 290 since 2001, and Clemson with 281 since 2003.

NFF College Hall of Fame Facts:

Some notable birthdates in NFF College Hall of Fame annals in the Sept. 2-8 time period are Sept. 2 (1925) Eddie Price, New Orleans, La.; (1948) Terry Bradshaw, Shreveport, La.; (1960) Eric Dickerson, Sealy, Texas; (1960) Leonard Smith, New Orleans, La.; (1979) Brian Westbrook, Ft. Washington, Md.; Sept. 3 (1930) Tom Scott, Baltimore, Md.; (1966) Bennie Blades, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Sept. 4 (1874) Clint Wyckoff, Elmira, N.Y.; (1894) Bart Macomber, Chicago, Ill.; (1916) Roland Young, Ponca City, Okla.; (1932) Vince Dooley, Mobile, Ala.; Sept. 5 (1873) Dave Campbell, Waltham, Mass.; (1909) Harry Newman, Detroit, Mich.; (1939) Billy Kilmer, Topeka, Kan.; (1946) Jerry LeVias, Beaumont, Texas; (1953) Dr. Dennis Thomas, Heidelberg, Miss.; Sept. 6 (1879) Gordon Brown, New York City; (1890) Bill Sprackling, Cleveland, Ohio; (1901) George Wilson, Everett, Wash.; Sept. 7 (1883) Bob Maxwell, Chicago, Ill.;

(1902) Mort Kaer, Omaha, Neb.; (1923) Emil "Red" Sitko, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; (1949) Larry Kehres, Diamond, Ohio; (1951) Bert Jones, Ruston, La.; Sept. 8 (1904) Bud Sprague, Dallas, Texas; (1912) Bob Hamilton, Sewickley, Pa.; (1915) Duffy Daugherty, Emeigh, Pa.; (1944) Frank Solich, Johnstown, Pa.; (1952) Anthony Davis, San Fernando, California.

Notable anniversaries of passings of NFF College Hall of Fame members are Sept. 3 (1989) Augie Lio, Clifton, N.J.; Sept. 4 (1933) Bill Hickok, Harrisburg, Pa.; (1967) Chet Gladchuk, Northampton, Mass.; (1983) Buddy Young, Terrell, Texas; (2011) Lee Roy Selmon, Tampa, Fla.; Sept. 5 (1978) Arnold Galiffa, Glenview, Ill.; (2002) Frankie Albert, Palo Alto, Calif.; Sept. 7 (1954) Pop Warner, Palo Alto, Calif.; (1982) Thad "Pie" Vann, Jackson, Miss.; (1985) Bruiser Kinard, Jackson, Miss.; (2021) Sam Cunningham, Inglewood, Calif.; Sept. 8 (1935) Ted Coy, New York, N.Y.

Happy birthdays to NFF Hall of Fame members born Sept. 2 Terry Bradshaw, Eric Dickerson, Leonard Smith, Brian Westbrook, Sept. 3 Bennie Blades, Sept. 5 Billy Kilmer (a spry 85), Jerry LeVias, Dr. Dennis Thomas, Sept. 7 Larry Kehres, Bert Jones, Sept. 8 Frank Solich (a spry 80), Anthony Davis...

Schedules:

The Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech contest on Oct. 26 is now a hard sellout... Former Yankee Conference members Sacred Heart and Merrimack, competing in 2024 as FCS independents, will meet on Nov. 16 to play the Yankee Conference football championship presented by LEONA in a mini-revitalization of the famed former football circuit... Teams ranked Nos. 11-20 in all-time NCAA FBS victories prior to '24 play are USC with 875, LSU with 843, Auburn with 799, Clemson with 798, West Virginia with 783, Texas A&M with 778, Washington with 774, Virginia Tech with 773, Pittsburgh with 761, and Florida with 760... Abilene Christian and Texas Tech had met in football since 1949 (with Tech holding a 6-3 series lead in games played during the 1925-49 era), but last weekend's season opener for both teams proved to be the most exhilarating contest among the teams' 10 meetings with Tech scoring a 52-51 overtime victory in Lubbock. ACU head coach Keith Patterson is a former defensive coordinator with the Red Raiders from 2019-21.

Good Works:

Boise State All-America punter James Ferguson-Reynolds is pledging \$20 per punt inside the 20-yard line this season for breast cancer awareness research... College Colors Day had a solid response nationally

last Friday as 774 football-playing colleges and universities celebrated with administrators, students, faculty, and staff...The Vanderbilt Alumni Association is hosting a special tailgate dinner on Saturday, Sept. 14, at Wood's Chapel Barbecue in Atlanta before the VU-Georgia State bash that evening. Last week's VU-Virginia Tech game celebrated Vandy United Day and campus updates...The Boone Pickens Museum at Oklahoma State is preparing to open with a plethora of Pickens' memorabilia, a space with replica furniture the same size as his main office at BP Capital in Dallas and voice recordings of the famed Osu, Texas Women's University and Hospice benefactor during his seven decades in national business.

Football Coaches:

TCU head coach Sonny Dykes and his wife Kate are making a \$1 million donation to the Horned Frogs in honor of former TCU offensive lineman Jamaal Powell and the late Shirley Enis – a lifelong supporter of Horned Frogs athletics...Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin received an automatic, one-year contract extension on Dec. 8, 2023, and has updated compensation and bonus clauses...Rice head coach Mike Bloomgren has initiated his weekly radio shows from La Cocina Restaurant in Houston...Head coach James Franklin took Penn State football youngsters for a Lake Day near State College to get a little water refreshment from rugged preseason practices...Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz noted that one of the hardest parts in pre-season drills during his three decades' tenure at UI is getting student-athletes settled into August and September class routines...New Tulane head coach Jon Sumrall thinks that not having the 15-day spring NCAA transfer portal period in 2025 and thereafter could be a detriment to coaches coming into a program for the first time during spring training...Texas A&M head coach Mike Elko likes his overall talent at wide receiver and purports that 1-2 standouts will emerge as the season continues...The Hawgs Illustrated Sports Club luncheon featured Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman with ample discussions about NIL disparities the football squad and how to try and handle these challenges...USC head coach Lincoln Riley compared fighting the early battles of NIL compensation were similar to gunfight with a knife or even a toy sword...Defensive coordinator David Calloway of UAPB is preaching cohesion of play to help offset inexperience for a young stoppage unit...Texas State football special assistant to the head coach and veteran football mentor David Bailiff is now with associated with the Cardinal NIL Grange collective as a consultant...Former UCF and Nebraska head coach Scott Frost has been named to the assistant coaching staff of the NFL Los Angeles Rams...Austin Peay co-offensive coordinator Patrick Kugler has left the Governors.

Homestowns of more 2024 college head coaches – Midland (Neb.): Jeff Jamrog,

Elkhorn, Neb.; Midway (Ky.): Elbert Kern, Chicago, Ill.; Midwestern State: Rich Renner, Cincinnati, Ohio; Miles: Sam Shade, Birmingham, Ala.; Millersville: J.C. Morgan, Middletown, Delaware.

Directors of Athletics:

Northwestern tabbed Villanova director of athletics Mark Jackson as its new AD...Florida State director of athletics Michael Alford had his contract extended through December 2028...Alabama A&M AD Paul Bryant has an updated contract extension through December 2027...Texas AD Chris Del Conte and Texas A&M AD Trev Alberts earlier sought a possible traditional Thanksgiving night contest to renew the longtime rivalry, but for now the two teams are set for a Saturday, Nov. 30, tussle in College Station. Some fans have wondered why the Southeastern Conference slated the game for College Station since the last A&M-Texas clash was played there in 2011. Traditionally, going back to the Southwest Conference in their 1915 meeting, the Longhorns hosted the Aggies in even-numbered years while the Ags were home team in odd-year seasons. Both ADs also have not ruled out a future Black Friday affair if the networks agree between the powers who are back in the same loop after 13 seasons...Syracuse AD John Wildhack briefed fans the public about scheduled upgrades at the historic JMA Wireless Dome, NIL, Orange prospects in the Atlantic Coast Conference football race and other sports along with SU's progress in NIL agreements...Missouri State has identified Appalachian State deputy AD for external relations Patrick Ransdell as its lead finalist for the AD's vacancy...Penn State AD Dr. Pat Kraft has a new personal employment agreement through June 30, 2032...Arizona State AD Graham Rossini updated media about ASU facilities' upgrades, to-do lists of in the transition to the Big 12 Conference in 2024-25, the evolution of Sun Devils athletics in multiple areas since last December, and balancing budgets for 27 competitive varsity sports in Tempe...Miami (Fla.) AD Dan Radakovich opined about jurisprudence against the Atlantic Coast Conference by two members, the intrinsic value of the ACC since its founding in 1953, the future of a new indoor practice facility at UM, and the solid relationship with upper levels of the Hurricanes administration and the department of athletics...George Washington U. had its formal introduction of AD Michael Lipitz who explained how he hopes to keep the solid tradition of GWU men's and women's basketball programs (a combined all-time 29 NCAA Championship appearances) and how the Revolutionaries plan to remain competitive in the rugged Atlantic-10 Conference in all activities...Northern Illinois AD Sean Frazier received his formal contract extension through June 30, 2027, with his new base salary and bonus options...West Virginia AD Wren Baker mentioned several challenges and possible

solutions for future football and other sports. Some of the prime examples given were skyrocketing compensation for head coaches, financing measures for the NCAA House settlement, uncertainty about balancing annual budgets for athletics, and finding solutions to rugged annual scheduling against Penn State and Pittsburgh (the Backyard Brawl)...Utah AD Mark Harlan expressed sound satisfaction with the Utes move to the Big 12 Conference, preseason media selection of UU football to win the Big 12, the differences in going from one Power Four conference to a larger (16-school) loop, the Utah NIL Crimson Collective efforts, and NIL components of the NCAA House settlement with their probable financial impact...Murray State AD Nico Yantko covered the procedures leading up to MSU NIL agreements and how donors were located to help increase initial monetization for student-athletes...Georgia AD Josh Brooks and Clemson AD Graham Neff joked about how they are longtime friends for 364 days (or 365 in leap year 2024) annually except when their football squads meet – this campaign last Saturday in Atlanta as No. 1 nationally Georgia topped the Tigers 34-3...Texas Tech AD Kirby Hocutt is unsure if the department will need to increase scholarship distribution per the NCAA House settlement and how certain elements of Title IX regulations figure into the equation...Houston AD Eddie Nuñez related that he concentrated on completing a number of tasks at New Mexico as AD in August before he took over with the Cougars...Memphis AD Ed Scott is working to establish both his policies, goals and persona in the department as well as the River City community...Alabama AD Greg Byrne expressed his views on having replacement plans and keeping Top Five candidate lists when top staff members leave or retire. He also reflected on the 49-hour timeline from the retirement of legendary Bama head coach Nick Saban until the hiring of new Crimson Tide head coach Kalen DeBoer...Georgia Southern AD Jared Benko has placed revenue generation, expense management, enhancement of the student-athlete experience, and critical hiring practices as his priorities for 2024-25...Former Valparaiso AD Charles Small is now Washington's senior associate AD for sport administration...Monmouth selected Robert Woodcock as associate AD for NCAA compliance...Long Beach State men's golf head coach Rob Murray had his individual pact upgraded through June 2029...UCLA chose Stephanie London Krogus as executive senior Associate AD and chief development officer...San Jose State senior associate AD Laura Alexander has been appointed to the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee through 2026...San Jose State AD Jeff Konya is the newest member of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee through August 31, 2026...Washington deputy AD for external relations Kurt Svoboda

explained how differing philosophies might occur as he transitioned from Michigan to Washington athletics...Southeast Missouri State added Steve Brooks as women's tennis head coach...Canisius named Matt Cosmann women's rowing head coach...Northern Arizona director of cross country and track and field Michael Smith is retiring after the 2024-25 outdoor track and field campaign...Julie Boland is the new head coach for Jacksonville State softball...Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball head coach Maria Marchesano has an updated personal pact through March 2030...Ohio State president Ted Carter opined that some varsity sports may be reduced to club sport status with the House NCAA settlement...Quinnipiac president Dr. Judy Olian, UT Dallas president Dr. Richard Benson and UNT Dallas president Robert Mong have announced their retirements as chief administrators...The latest position openings in athletics on D1Ticker.com are at Coastal Carolina, Austin Peay, Duke, Fresno State, Virginia, Florida A&M, Oklahoma, Alcorn State, Cleveland State, Illinois State, Le Moyne, Marquette, Mississippi Valley State, Missouri State, New Mexico, Northwestern, Portland State, Santa Clara, St. John's (N.Y.), UIC, Rutgers, U. of New Orleans, and Lehigh.

The Conferences:

The Big 12 Conference officially began its 29th season last Thursday when UCF hosted New Hampshire. The Big 12 also has been having continued discussions about admitting Connecticut as a 17th full member and has scheduled its men's and women's basketball media days in Kansas City with a record 32 head coaches and their student-athletes available for interviews, and the conference has introduced its What's Next media campaign in conjunction with the opening of fall sports seasons with special music from the popular group Earthgang...The Sunday, Sept. 1, contract deadline has passed for the Mountain West and Pac-12 Conferences to add the 2025 season to their cooperative scheduling agreement, and public comments have not been revealed for the possible '25 renewal...The Southeastern and Big Ten Conference have the opportunity to account for 50 percent-plus of all linear television viewership for college football in estimates by one national ratings' agency...Mountain West Conference commissioner Gloria Nevarez promoted MWC football and donated a hand warmer to CBS Sports Network sideline reporter Amanda Guerra as kickoff temperatures dropped to 47 degrees before the SMU at Nevada tilt on Aug. 24...Florida State and the Atlantic Coast Conference finalized court-ordered mediation on Aug. 13 and agreed to continue mutual discussions...West Coast Conference commissioner Stu Jackson thinks that settling the House v. NCAA case now is the best move in the short run before more lawsuits are formulated...The Pac-12 Conference, Colorado and Oregon

(continued on page 18)

examined possible sideline “incursions” and conduct and sportsmanship challenges during the 2023 CU-Oregon football clash.

The Bowls:

It now has been 35 seasons since NC State edged Southern Miss 31-27 in the final NFF College Hall of Fame (later All-American) Bowl at historic Legion Field in Birmingham, Ala....Some prominent NCAA-affiliated FBS individual bowl marks entering the post-2024 invitation season with a record 44 bowls scheduled are: most rushing yards – 329 - Frank Gore Jr., Southern Miss vs. Rice, 2022 Lending Tree; most passing yards - most total tackles – 31 - Lee Roy Jordan, Alabama vs. Oklahoma, 1962 Orange; most sacks – 6 - Trey Muirbrook, BYU vs. Kansas State, 1997 Cotton...Head coaches who guided their teams to the most bowl wins are Joe Paterno with 24, Bobby Bowden with 22, Nick Saban with 19, Paul “Bear” Bryant with 15, and current active leader Mack Brown of North Carolina with 14.

The Players:

Oregon QB Dillon Gabriel (via UCF and Oklahoma) now is No. 7 in NCAA FBS career passing yards with 15,245 after tossing for 380 yards against Idaho last Saturday night. He moved past NFF College Hall of Fame member Ty Detmer of BYU from 1988-91 with 15,031 yards...Nebraska LB Christian Alvano continues to remain large in the Huskers plans for retooling one of the nation’s top returning defenses this fall...Former Mississippi State QB Will Rogers warmed up for Big Ten Conference activity by throwing for 250 yards and one TD in a season-starting victory over Weber State. This brought Rogers’ career totals to 12,565 aerial sorties in five seasons with 1,321-of-1,902 passing for 95 touchdowns. He ranked among the Top 10 in virtually every Southeastern Conference all-time passing stat when he moved from MSU to the Huskies after the 2023 outing...Mississippi State wide receiver Kelly Akharaiyi and safety Corey Ellington are hoping to return soon from injuries incurred late in fall camp. Bulldogs RB Jeffrey Pittman is seeking another destination for 2025 or possibly a lower NCAA or NAIA divisional school for an immediate transfer this month...Georgia QB Carson Beck, CB Malaki Starks and TE Oscar Delp already have appeared on over a dozen 2024 watch lists or preseason All-SEC selections...Colorado all-purpose athlete Travis Hunter cannot complain when he does not get additional media coverage. He has not appeared at a news conference since the Buffaloes win over TCU but had a sterling on-field showing last week against North Dakota State with seven receptions for 130 yards and three TDs along with three tackles as a two-way defensive back-WR....LSU tight end Mac Markway has gained eligibility for the season as a transfer to Nebraska...Former Oklahoma and TCU quarterback Chandler Morris expressed excitement about ’24 as he has overcome

knee injuries from the last two campaigns at TCU...Arkansas transfer OL Josh Braun has been impressive in workouts since transferring from Florida...Former Oklahoma QB General Booty figures heavily in ULM offensive plans for ’24. He passed for 104 yards on 10-of-14 attempts and one TD to pace the Warhawks past SWAC power Jackson State in both teams’ lidlifters last Thursday night. His esteemed grandfather and football patriarch Johnny Booty began the three-generation family tradition by transferring from Arkansas to Mississippi State where he helped the 1974 Bulldogs roll to a 9-3 mark and win over North Carolina in the Sun Bowl...Recent additions to the 2025 Reese’s Senior Bowl watch list are Boise State OLs Kage Casey and Mason Randolph, RB Ashton Jeanty, and defensive end Ahmed Hassanein along with Louisiana standouts AJ Gillie, Jordan Lawson and K.C. Ossai.

Around the Campus:

Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty notched multiple National Player of the Week honors after rushing 20 times for 267 yards and a season-high six TDs in the Broncos victory over Georgia Southern...North Texas opened the season with the only exact .500 winning percentage in 111 previous seasons in the FBS ranks with a 541-541-33 win-loss-tie all-time mark before facing South Alabama in Mobile, Ala., last Saturday...The Mean Green followed that with a 32-for-41 passing outing for 410 yards and three touchdowns (plus two rushing TDs) by transfer QB Chandler Morris via Oklahoma and TCU in a triumph at South Alabama...Wisconsin football has sold out its reserved seats’ ticket allotment for ’24...Notable from sports historian Mike Burrows: Michigan’s 2024 football season ticket sales of 93,000-plus exceed the stadium capacity of 127 of the 134 colleges competing in NCAA FBS this year...Everett Sports Marketing already has assisted in \$4.3 million in NIL arrangements for 15 Georgia football student-athletes this year...Penn State is now 114-22-2 all-time in season football openers and 22-11 in annual starters on the road after last week’s visit to West Virginia...The Mississippi State M-Club Lettermen’s Association is hosting special reunions for the Bulldogs 1974 and 1990 bowl squads during the MSU-Florida contest weekend Sept. 19-21...UNLV is taking offers from Clark County, Nev., for the 69-acre site of historic Sam Boyd Stadium, which the Rebels vacated to move to Allegiant Stadium in 2020. An initial bid by the county as expected to be in the \$5-10 million range...Troy athletics and Playfly have completed a an extended multimedia rights partnership...The Army West Point-Navy football will be sponsored in future contests by the American Legion...SMU has captured 11 consecutive regular-season contests over the 2023 and ’24 seasons for the most wins in these cases since the 1981 and ’82 squads went for 14 consecutive scheduled victories before tying Arkansas

17-17 and then upending Pittsburgh and NFF College Hall of Fame QB Dan Marino in the 1983 Cotton Bowl Classic...Texas football student-athletes decided to go for the crew-cut and shorter styles prior to some sizzling-hot early temperatures for early encounters...No. 8 Penn State’s football and No. 3 nationally women’s soccer squads are having a friendly conversation about which crew will have the highest weekly national ranking...Connecticut athletics estimated approximately \$100,000 in NIL compensation for football in 2023 but projects a range of \$1-1.25 million this autumn...The University of Calgary (Canada) opened its season last Friday against Regina as College Sports Communicators Hall of Fame and legendary publicist Jack Neumann began his 47th year of covering UC athletics...NAIA Grace College (Ind.) has inked the first uniform sponsorship agreement with the Zimmer Biomet Co. for logo usage financial benefits for GC athletics...Less than 800 individual game tickets remained for the Florida State at SMU ACC opener for the Mustangs in Dallas Sept. 28...Kansas athletics will utilize a per-seat donation model to be determined for individual seats in Allen Fieldhouse and David Booth KU Memorial Stadium beginning in August 2025...Utah State’s football season ticket sales have reached their largest numbers since 2017 with an additional renewal rate through late August of 85 percent of men’s basketball season ticket purchasers...Nebraska athletics is producing a documentary entitled The Place, which will deal with multiple nuances in college sports such as the NIL, collectives, revenue sharing, the transfer portal, and other current topics. The program’s trailer went public last week...Memphis athletics is close to gaining a two-year extension of its contracted lease agreement with the FedEx Forum...Vanderbilt and Jackalope Brewing have introduced a popular game-day drafted malt beverage - Conquer and Prevail Pale Ale to salute the Vandy alma mater song – which will reach nationwide distribution in coming months with a color commodore insignia on its products...Texas Tech football will provide weekly player availability reports throughout the season...TCU has named its new Football Performance Center the Harrison Family Football Performance Center in honor of loyalists Mike and Brenda Harrison...Holy Cross athletics and Harpoon Brewery are partners in the introduction of craft beverage Holy Cross Hazy IPA – the official craft beer of the HC...SMU will have a new and improved video show on its LED display areas some 20 minutes prior to home football kickoffs...Oklahoma State ended the second-longest winning streak in NCAA FCS annals with a victory over two-time defending FCS champ South Dakota State last Saturday...Texas enthusiasts making donations to the Texas One Fund NIL collective now are receiving Longhorn Foundation loyalty points for

seating arrangements and other rewards in athletics...La Salle’s upgrades for John Glaser Arena include enhanced LED lighting, hanging scoreboards and premium seating areas...LSU’s new Athletics Recovery Center was chronicled in a recent video feature...Connecticut athletics will work with the Storrs Central Group and the Bleeding Blue for Good NIL collective for enhanced financial distribution...Athletes First, which features NFL QBs Aaron Rodgers of California and Dak Prescott of Mississippi State, is hosting a 10-campus Tailgate Tour to assist in recruiting future clients...Vanderbilt’s three-time NCAA Championship bowling squad plays its first tournament in October and hopes to step up its performance to compete with fellow national power and defending NCAA champ Jacksonville State. The Commodore bowlers have been coached for 21 seasons by former Ole Miss tight end John Williamson...Michigan is looking at paying approximately \$24 million in revenue-sharing with student-athletes for 2024-25...Rice athletics had a very busy late August calendar with five football, soccer and volleyball home events and the gridiron opener at Rice Stadium against Sam Houston...Louisiana still has a limited number of 2024 football season tickets remaining...Vanderbilt football conducted a 48-hour flash sale of \$15 individual tickets for upcoming tests against Alcorn State and Louisville.

Other Notables:

NFF & College Hall of Fame Chris Schenkel Award recipient Eli Gold hosted his first Rich Rodriguez Radio Show last week to start a weekly program with the Jacksonville State head coach...Retired College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock and NFL great Travis Kelce of the Kansas City Chiefs and Cincinnati Bearcats joined Big 12 Conference commissioner Brett Yormark as recipients of Kansas City Sports Commission Legacy Awards...The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame’s 2025 class inducted in February in Macon, Ga., includes legends gymnast Courtney Kupets Carter, football coach Terry Holder, MLB pitching standout Tim Hudson, MLB star Marquis Grissom, NFF College Hall of Fame member WR Terance Mathis, MLB famed pitching coach Leo Mazzone, famed broadcaster Bob Rathbun, football stalwart Theron Sapp, NBA star Dennis Scott, and noted women’s tennis coach Jeff Wallace...Pro Football Hall of Fame QB Brett Favre made a rare and enthusiastic speaking appearance at the NFF Little Rock (Ark.) Touchdown Club last week...Several college teams had the initials RR on their helmets to memorialize the contributions of late NCAA supervisor of football officials Dr. Rogers Redding...NFL Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes of Texas Tech through the Mahomes Adidas Brand will be providing NIL compensation for five Red Raiders football student-athletes with the Team Mahomes Group...Former SMU and NFL

great Ray Schroecke has penned a best-selling book about life and football - Fat Girl Sings: Discovering, Embracing, and Leveraging Racial Identity on the Football Field, in Business, and in Life...Dallas Mayor and Harvard fan/grad Eric Johnson and former Dallas (Texas) Highland Park HS and Sewanee standout (later Southwest Conference football official) Winkie Turner have recovered from recent bouts with COVID.

Media Musings:

Sports Illustrated's Pat Forde suggested that the NCAA use images of college student-athletes' success at the Paris Olympics to promote collegiate Olympic sports prior to the 2028 Olympiad in Los Angeles...Award-winning Jay Walker has opened his 33rd season behind the mike for Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns football...CBS Sports columnist Dennis Dodd polled eight ADs from Big 12 Conference schools about their perspectives concerning the possible addition of Connecticut as a Big 12 member...247Sports.com's Carter Karels queried Texas A&M AD Trev Alberts about leaving his alma mater Nebraska to join a rising Southeastern Conference power and the challenges of making staff adjustments when he arrived in College Station...ESPN selected Mike McQuade as executive vice president of sports production, David Roberts as executive vice president for live talk format programming, Kaitee Daley as senior vice president of digital, social and streaming content, and Freddy Rolón head of global sports and talent. The network also parted ways with five members of the executive staff as part of recent personnel streamlining...Extra Points publisher Matt Brown believes that many colleges will cut scholarship offerings in various sports to keep from dropping Olympic varsity offerings and that FBS conferences may drop certain sports sponsorships...Sports Business Journal's Ben Portnoy revealed that several new members of the Big 12 Conference spent as much as \$90 million or higher on facilities and other areas while raising their overall budgets for athletics to compensate for travel and to remain competitive within the circuit...Sports Business Journal also recalled the days leading up to the admissions of Oklahoma and Texas into the Southeastern Conference prior to July 1....CBS Sports columnist Richard Johnson questioned coaches about how injured student-athletes' NIL compensation agreements may be altered in-season...The Associated Press national college football editor Ralph Russo wondered in a recent column about the Big 12's continued interest in adding Connecticut as a member in light of some slowdowns since late in 2023 about Power Four conferences expanding...ESPN has a new Where to Watch innovation on both the ESPN.com website and mobile devices to display times and availability on the family of networks for college football and a multitude of other show events with simple, easy clicks...The

Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times' columnist Matt Baker glanced at initial estimates for the new USF campus stadium in the neighborhood of \$325 million and possible labor and contracting costs, which could cause variants...ESPN's Dave Wilson wrote an insider's perspective on the 1988 Cotton Bowl Classic, which Texas A&M won 35-10 over Notre Dame and NFF College Hall of Fame WR Tom Brown ('87 Heisman Trophy recipient) Tim Brown of the Fighting Irish.

FWAA, CSC, NCAA, Etc.:

The 2024-25 FWAA membership directory has been mailed to members, and those wishing to join the association as NCBWA and USBWA writers' organizations may access Collegepressbox.com for FWAA links and voting instructions for 2024-25 honor teams. In the interim, FWAA members were able to access the directory online...The USBWA also is accepting entries from current or prospective members for the 2023-24 USBWA Best Writing Contest via the official USBWA.com website...College Sports Communicators featured in major online or social media posts in recent days are Jacob Davey of Duquesne, Phillip Bausk of LIU, Jesse Hall of Mercyhurst, Ryan Gavatorra of Robert Morris, and Brian Minutolo of St. Francis (Pa.)...CSC Hall of Fame member and U. of Calgary (Canada) historian Jack Neumann penned a feature on the connection with Vernon, British Columbia, prep football and Calgary Dinos football success...Arizona State, Austin Peay, Florida, Kentucky, LSU, Michigan State, Oregon, Tennessee, UCLA, and USC are conferring with NCAA enforcement and compliance officials concerning possible challenges and probes at their respective schools...The NCAA has delivered its official Notice of Allegations' document to Michigan...Attorneys for former Michigan football staff member Connor Stalions termed the alleged UM signal stealer as a possible scapegoat for a larger plan...NCAA House settlement plaintiffs' attorneys are asking about a timetable for fully funding by colleges and what are the proposed terms of final contracts for 2016-21 student-athletes affected by the suit... -30-



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